

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus in which fibrous waste is processed under initial over-pressure conditions is disclosed. Once the fibrous waste has been loaded into 5 an autoclave, a compressor pressurizes the chamber, following which caustic swelling and debonding solution is injected into the chamber. In a further embodiment, a caustic solution is introduced into the fiber slurry output from an initial separation stage, following which 10 negative pressure is maintained for a period of time chosen to enhance the desired debonding. In yet another embodiment of the present invention, de-inking solution is introduced into an initial fibrous waste processing stage which operates at super- or sub-atmospheric 15 pressure.

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